

ADOPT A PIT RESCUE

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Saving Lives and Changing Minds: We are Their Voice

RE: HB 148

March 28, 2025

Dear Chairman Creech and committee members,

My name is Kirsten Knight and I am the Director of Adopt a Pit Rescue. I am writing to respectfully request that you vote FOR HB 148.

I have been running Adopt a Pit Rescue for the last twelve years and during those years we have adopted out over 6000 dogs. Every single dog we adopt out is spayed or neutered prior to adoption and receives vaccines, heartworm test, prevention and a microchip.

We are a foster home based rescue and are located mostly in southern Ohio with most of our foster homes in or near Montgomery County. Over the last few years, really since COVID started, the stray dog problem in our community has hit a crisis point. We receive requests every single day from the police and the public to take in stray dogs that they have found because they are refused by our county shelter, the Animal Resource Center. The stray dog crisis in our community has gotten so bad that it has been on the news even as recently as a few weeks ago because people are being chased and attacked by packs of stray dogs.

We have taken in dozens of stray dogs and we want to continue to do so. We fully vet all of our dogs prior to adoption and over the last few years have sponsored spays and neuters for many of the stray dogs that people are finding in an effort to help the finders who have nowhere else to turn. We specialize in pit bulls and other larger breed dogs and so a spay or neuter surgery for us costs between \$120-\$150 per dog (it is largely determined by the weight of the dog)– for surgery clinics and includes a rescue discount. If you take a dog to a regular vet you will pay \$300 plus per dog.

We have been the recipients of a spay / neuter grant from the Ohio Pet Fund for many years. We are grateful for every single dollar that they have given us because it means that we are helping to reduce the over population that leads to the problems that we are seeing in Montgomery County.

I implore you to vote for HB 148. It can only help our community. As costs rise, rescues and the public are struggling financially because for rescues, donations have decreased, and the public who need financial assistance are struggling more than they were before. Spay / neuter grants like the ones from Ohio Pet Fund are invaluable for rescues and families. Many of Ohio Pet Fund's recipients are spay / neuter clinics who help low income families.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I look forward to seeing HB 148 passing.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Knight

Kirsten Knight

Director – Adopt a Pit Rescue